

CONCLUSION

As you creatively wrap up your essay, consider the possibilities...

A Question or Open-Ended Statement - leaving the reader on an uncertain note

A Profound Thought - based on common knowledge and taken to a new level

Example:

"Miss Honey was still hugging the tiny girl in her arms and neither of them said a word as they stood there watching the big black car tearing round the corner at the end of the road and disappearing forever into the distance."

—Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

A Surprise - carefully planned and built in toward the body

Example:

"Once again the tarot cards lay before him. Once again the bells ring twelve times. At the stroke of midnight, he flipped over the first card. It was

THE SERVANT.

Smiling broadly, Fabrizio turned the next card"

—Avi, *Midnight Magic*

A Quote - to reinforce key points made in the text

Example:

"Very softly, she half sang, half summed a song that her grandmother used to sing . . .

If only, if only, the moon speaks no reply;

Reflecting the sun and all that's gone by.

Be strong my weary wolf, turn around boldly,

Fly high, my baby bird,

My angel, my only."

—Louis Sachar, *Holes*

A Tie-Up - taking care of loose ends and answering questions the reader may still have about key points

Example:

"The man ahead to put the plates on the table."

—Jean Fritz, *Homesick: My Own Story*

For creative writing - but still take the basic idea.

Example:
"And soon, they were rolling on again, leaving Treegap behind, and as they went, the tinkling little melody of a music box drifted out behind them and was lost at last far down the road."
—Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*

A Challenge - to take action

Example:

"Be smarter than I was: Go talk to Grandma and Grandpa, Mom and Dad and other relatives and friends. Discover and remember what they have to say about what they learned growing up. By keeping their stories alive you make them, and yourself immortal."

—Christopher Paul Curtis, *Bud, Not Buddy*

A Summary - just in case it's necessary to make key points one more time

Example:

"And because so many of them were always begging him to tell and tell again the story of his adventures on the peach, he thought it would be nice if one day he sat down and wrote a book
So he did.

And that is what you have just finished reading."

—Roald Dahl, *James and the Giant Peach*

A Literary Device - a metaphor, for example, that has been building throughout the piece

Example:

"This is why, walking across a school campus on this particular December morning, I keep searching the sky. As if I expected to see, rather like hearts, a lost pair of kites hurrying toward heaven."

—Truman Capote, "A Christmas Memory"